NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference to Focus on 'Seismic Shifts'

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SAN FRANCISCO – Dramatic changes wrought by man and nature are the focus of the 2006 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, which will be held July 10-13, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Huntington Beach, Calif.

The annual event brings together the judges who preside and lawyers who practice in the federal courts of the western United States. Invitations have been extended to more than 800 judges, judiciary employees, representatives of government agencies, and private attorneys, many of whom not only practice in the federal courts, but also serve on judicially-sponsored committees seeking to improve the administration of justice in the Ninth Circuit.

The theme of the conference is "Seismic Shifts in the Law and in Our Lives." The general sessions will focus on sentencing, juries, natural disasters, court security and disaster planning, and judicial wellness. The conference also will welcome U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, newly named as Ninth Circuit Justice.

The 2006 conference is being organized by a Conference Executive Committee chaired by Magistrate Judge Sandra M. Snyder of Fresno, Calif. Chief District Judge Robert S. Lasnik of Seattle serves as program chair. Chief Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder will preside over the opening session and participate in other parts of the conference.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference meets annually pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for "the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit."

The United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the district and bankruptcy courts and related court units for the Districts of Alaska, Arizona, Northern California, Central California, Eastern California, Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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Editor's Note: Media coverage of the conference is welcome. All general sessions are open to the media to promote better understanding of the work of the court. Advanced media registration will be required. For more information, contact David Madden at the Public Information Office.